



MADWORC

Welcome Packet

Welcome to MadWorC

This packet will provide lots of info about our organization and hopefully answer any questions.

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MadWorC is Madison's local peer support network for worker co-ops seeking to build the solidarity economy in Madison. Local worker co-op organizing is critical to making sure worker cooperatives have the tools, skills, and resources necessary for maintaining strong businesses. We exist to help all of Madison's worker co-ops, not just our members, and we encourage worker co-ops to get involved by joining, attending meetings, sharing resources, and more.

Our mission is to support and build the solidarity economy in the Madison area by promoting worker ownership and democratically controlled workplaces. We provide cooperative education, development support, peer networking, and technical assistance towards growing an ecosystem of worker-owned cooperatives, which can mutually support each other while building racial, gender, and economic justice in our communities.

Read more to learn about who we are, what we've been doing, how to participate, and what MadWorC can do for you.

MadWorC's Activities

Learn about what we do



Current Initiatives

Here's what we're currently working on.

TRADE SCHOOLS

Creating a curriculum for trade school students about worker cooperatives

PEER NETWORK

Strengthening our peer support network

CONVERSIONS

Helping small local businesses convert to being worker cooperatives

DEVELOPMENT

Developing more worker cooperatives in Madison

INCLUSIVITY

Becoming a more inclusive organization

PRINCIPLE 6

Connecting cooperatives to each other to maximize strengths

BOOK CLUB

Continuing to run a book club/study group

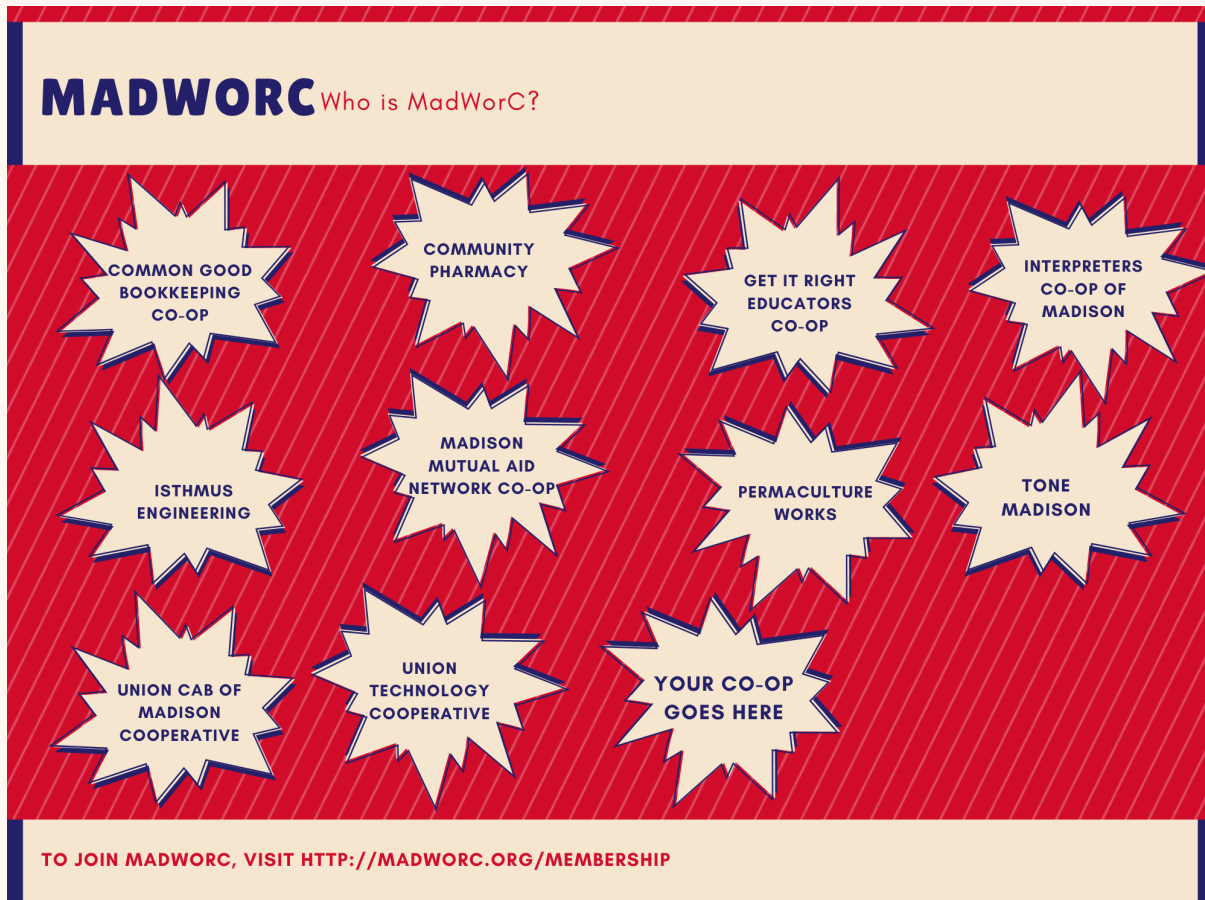
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When our Coop was getting started the Board Member Exchange events where we attended other Worker Coop Board meets were very educational.

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Who is MadWorC?

Meet Our Members



Common Good Bookkeeping Cooperative is a cooperative of bookkeepers who provide support to a variety of local organizations, including many local worker cooperatives.

Community Pharmacy is a pharmacy and wellness cooperative, with a full-service pharmacy at their east side Madison location.

The Get It Right Educators' Cooperative is a cooperative of teachers working at the Milestone Democratic school in Madison

Interpreters Cooperative of Madison provides language interpretation in a variety of languages, written translation, and online language interpretation.

Isthmus Engineering and Manufacturing is a cooperative that creates industrial machinery.

Madison MAN's purpose is to create means for everyone to discover and succeed in work they want to do, with the support of their community.

PermacultureWorks is a new cooperative focusing on permaculture education.

Tone Madison is an independent publication covering culture and politics in Madison, Wisconsin.

Union Cab of Madison is Madison's worker-owned taxi company.

Union Technology Cooperative does technology support for a variety of businesses, including helping many new cooperatives set up their technical systems.

Our Work

What does MadWorC do?

MadWorC is a non-profit organization supporting cooperatives in the Madison area. We've existed since 2009, when we were formed by members of several different local worker cooperatives. Our organization is composed of representatives from whichever cooperatives choose to join - we hope your co-op will consider attending meetings and getting involved.

MadWorC has done a number of things since 2009, including:

- Increasing communication between worker co-ops
- Promoting worker-ownership to Madison businesses
- Helping obtain city funding for worker cooperatives
- Tabling at large-scale events to help promote worker cooperatives among the public
- Arranging support opportunities between co-ops, such as a board-member-exchange program
- Advocating for worker cooperatives at the city and state level
- Running a discussion mailing list for those interested in worker cooperatives
- Hosting an annual Regional Rendezvous, a midwest worker cooperative gathering

MadWorC's board meets monthly, and meetings are open to everyone. Each member co-op gets one vote at the meeting, but there's no limit on how many people from your co-op may attend.

Our current initiatives include:

- Helping small local businesses convert to being worker cooperatives
- Creating a curriculum for trade school students about worker cooperatives
- Strengthening our peer support network
- Developing more worker cooperatives in Madison
- Becoming a more inclusive organization
- Connecting cooperatives to each other to maximize strengths
- Continuing to run a book club/study group

We also host an annual Regional Rendezvous, which is a gathering of worker-owners from around the midwest who come together to share ideas and build projects together.

MadWorC exists to connect co-ops. What does your co-op need? What can your co-op share? You can join our mailing list at <http://madworc.org>.

How to Participate in MadWorC

There are lots of ways to get involved.

The first way to participate in MadWorC is to attend our monthly meetings. If your co-op is a member of MadWorC, you get to appoint someone to our board, but everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings, even if you aren't a member.

The next way to participate in MadWorC is to join one of our committees or our board. Our current committees are Education & Outreach and Fundraising. We're in the process of forming an Inclusion committee, too. If you'd like to get involved on a committee, you can contact our staff person at madworc.coordinator@gmail.com.

Another way to get involved is to join our book club/study group. Check out <http://madworc.org/bookclub>

for information about when our next book club will be starting, and what book we'll be reading. This is a great way to get to know other worker-owners and worker co-op supporters while also learning about co-ops, history, organizing, and more.

We hold social events. These are a great way to get to know us in a less formal context (no agenda, no reading to do ahead of time). Our social events are the 4th Thursday of the month from 5pm-7pm. Visit <http://madworc.org/socials> for next location.

We also invite you to participate in our annual Regional Rendezvous as a presenter (sharing your co-op's experiences) or as an attendee. More info about the Regional Rendezvous, including the program guides from past years, is on our website.

What Can MadWorC Do For You?

We're here to help!

MadWorC exists to support worker cooperatives and build the solidarity economy here in Madison. We can help connect you to a variety of resources, including other cooperatives both locally and across the country through our involvement with a variety of peer networks. We're working on creating a library of co-op bylaws and policies that members can have access to. We're also working on creating some support packages that members will be eligible to purchase at discounted rates, such as IT support, bookkeeping/finance support, and more.

We also have a place on our website where each cooperative member of MadWorC has a page about itself. We can add whatever you want to that page - a description of your co-op, links to your website, information about your products or services. And we're working on setting up Google Ads to link to our site, which we hope will increase traffic for our members.

Our Partners

MadWorC partners with several organizations, including:

Madison Cooperative Development Coalition: The city of Madison's initiative to fund and support worker cooperative development. **The Madison Cooperative Development Coalition (MCDC):** The City of Madison's initiative to form worker cooperatives that address income inequality and racial disparities by creating living-wage and sustainable jobs. The Coalition works to strengthen the local cooperative ecosystem.

The University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives (UWCC): An internationally valued Center that provides education, outreach, and research to a diverse range of communities. It is the only U.S. university-based center that studies and supports all forms of cooperatives.

How to Join MadWorC

We'd love to welcome you as members!

Any worker co-op can join MadWorC. Visit our membership site to find out more and get a link to the application. Our membership page is <https://madworc.org/membership/>. As part of the application, we'll ask you some questions about your cooperative, including details like when it was formed and how many worker-owners you currently have. We'll also ask some demographic questions. These questions are all to help us build a better picture of the worker cooperatives in Madison so we can best advocate for co-op needs and connect co-ops to each other.

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Being part of MadworC has helped us to see the power and potential of Coop Principle 6 in action.

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